Attorney Docket No. 224876

In re Appln. of HOWELL et al. Application No. 10/694,596 Preliminary Amendment

## Remarks

The amendments to the specification serve to correct typographical and grammatical errors present in the application as originally filed. In addition, several changes have been made to more precisely described embodiments of the invention. No new matter is added by any of the changes.

The amendments to the claims serve to broaden the number of claims to the maximum already paid for.

## Conclusion

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Vladan M. Vasiljevic, Reg No. 45,177

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900

180 North Stetson Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780

(312) 616-5600 (telephone)

(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: March 11, 2005